

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9 wherein the act of marking comprises at least one of:

appending a single recipient icon to the address if the address matches an address in the contact list;

appending a mailing list icon to the address if the address matches a mailing list address in the contact list;

appending a newsgroup icon to the address if the address matches a newsgroup address in the contact list;

appending a text icon to the address if the address is an invalid email address or an Internet address; and

appending an address icon to the address if the address is determined to be a valid email address but not in the contact list.

7. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9, wherein the act of marking comprises appending a server icon to the address if the address matches an entry in the contact list of said one or more servers.

8. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9, wherein the act of marking comprises appending a caution icon to the address if the address does not match any entry in the contact list of said one or more servers, said caution icon indicating to the user that the address is not found in any contact list accessible by the user.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A computer-implemented process for allowing a user to manipulate an email address contained in the preview pane or full message window of an email message of an email program as an object, comprising using a computer to perform the following acts:

identifying an entry in the preview pane or full message window of an email message as an email address, said identifying comprising,

finding at least one field in the preview pane or full message window containing an email message header of the email message containing one or more email addresses, and

parsing at least one email address from the ~~at least one email address field~~ at least one field in the preview pane or full message window which contains one or more email addresses;

checking the email address against addresses in one or more contact databases to determine if it is contained in a contact database, wherein a contact database is a set of stored contacts and corresponding addresses, and wherein said checking comprises at least one of,

determining if the address corresponds to a single contact in the contact list,

determining if the address corresponds to a mailing list in the contact list,

determining if the address corresponds to a newsgroup address in the contact list,

determining if the address corresponds to an invalid email address or internet address,

determining if the address corresponds to a valid email address not found to match any addresses in the contact list, and if so,

ascertaining whether the user's computer is in correspondence with one or more servers,

if the user's computer is not in correspondence with said one or more servers,

appending an icon indicating to the user that more information is needed before sending the email message,

flagging the address such that an act of determining if the address corresponds to an address in the contact list of said one or more servers must be performed prior to sending an email message,

prompting the user to establish correspondence with said one or more servers, and

upon establishing correspondence with said one or more servers, determining if the address corresponds to an address in a contact list of at least one server;

marking the email address with an adjacently placed indicator; and

upon selection of the indicator by the user, allowing the user to manipulate the email address as an object.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 6 wherein the act of identifying an entry in the preview pane or full message window of an email message as an email address in an incoming email message comprises initially appending an icon representing an indeterminate indicator to all email addresses in the header that are not in a "From" address field, and where the acts of checking and marking these email addresses is postponed until background processing can be used to perform the checking and marking unless a user initiates a search command directing that one or more of these addresses be subjected to checking and marking immediately.

Claim 11. (original) The computer-implemented process of claim 10 wherein the indeterminate icon appended to addresses in the email header that are not in the From address field is replaced with an appropriate icon when the checking and marking acts are performed.

Claim 12. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9 wherein the email message is an outgoing email message prepared by a user, and wherein the act of identifying comprises determining if the email address was autofilled from a contact database or server database.

Claim 13. (original) The computer-implemented process of claim 12 wherein the act of marking comprises marking the autofilled email address with an appropriate indicator based on the source used to autofill the email address.

Claim 14. (original) The computer-implemented process of claim 13 wherein the act of marking the autofilled email address with the appropriate indicator comprises the acts of :

- appending a single recipient icon to the address if the address matches an address in the contact list;

- appending a mailing list icon to the address if the address matches a mailing list address in the contact list;

- appending a newsgroup icon to the address if the address matches a newsgroup address in the contact list; and

- appending a server icon to the address if the address was autofilled from a contact list of a server.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9 wherein the act of manipulating comprises one of moving, deleting, or copying the object.

Claim 16. (original) The computer-implemented process of claim 15 wherein the act of selecting an indicator comprises an act of selecting the indicator via an activation action associated with an input device.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9 further comprising the act of allowing a user to open an entry in the contact database associated with the address via an activation action associated with an input device.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9 further comprising the act of prompting a user to create an entry

associated with the address in the contact database via an activation action associated with an input device whenever such an entry does not already exist in the contact database.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9 wherein the act of selecting an indicator further comprises an act of displaying an appropriate contextual menu depending on the type of indicator associated with said address.

Claim 20. (original) The computer-implemented process of claim 19 wherein the act of displaying an appropriate contextual menu further comprises adding an email address to a user's contact list and wherein an email address is added to the user's contact data base upon selection of the menu item.

Claim 21. (original) The computer-implemented process of claim 20 wherein the user has an option to open a window containing editable content associated with an email address if a contact who sent the email message is in the user's contact data base.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The computer-implemented process of claim 9 further comprising the act of using a computer to open an item associated with the email address after looking up the item in one or more contact databases when the user double clicks on the adjacently placed indicator.

Claim 23. (original) The computer-implemented process of claim 22 further comprising the prompting the user to create an item associated with said indicator if the address was manually entered or captured from a server.

Claims 24-25. (cancelled)